

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, July 7, 2005**

**MINUTES**

**Board members present:** Dr. Andrew Roper, Chairperson, Sam Brown, Robert Harper, Robert Richardson and Jody Payne.

**Board members absent:** Coleman Hillman and Dorothy Gass.

**Recreation, Parks and Community Services staff and others present:** Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services, Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Andrew Roper, Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Robert Richardson motioned, seconded by Sam Brown, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2005. Motion carried 5-0.**

**RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, provided an update on the following projects and programs for the Recreation Division.

- Scott Verbic Memorial Golf Tournament – The annual Scott Verbic Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course with over 100 golfers participating. The event raised \$6,254 to fund the Department's annual scholarship program. The scholarship program assists low income families with registration fees and also enables those in need to participate in Department sponsored leisure programs.
- Great Turtle Race – 131 turtles were entered in the annual Great Turtle Race held on June 17, 2005.
- Summer Camps – Space is still available in several summer day camp programs. A total of 1,300 young people have enrolled to date.
- Summerstock Musical – This year's Summerstock Musical is Beauty and the Beast. Performances will be held at the Great Mills High School Auditorium from July 28 – 31, 2005. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening shows begin at 7:00 p.m.; the Saturday matinee show begins at 1:00 p.m.; and Sunday evening show begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Great Mills Swimming Pool – Total attendance for June 2005 was 4,985; June 2004 was 2,858.
- Leisure Programs – Summer leisure programs are also underway; approximately 40 classes are being held this summer.
- Leonard Hall Recreation Center – Adult soccer and roller hockey continue to utilize the LHRC during the evenings, while youth sports camps utilize the facility during the day.

**UPDATE ON PARKS MANAGER POSITION**

Mr. Rollins informed the Board that Bill Ball, Parks Division Manager, retired on June 17, 2005 after 32 years of service with the Department. The Parks Division Manager position was advertised and 34 applications were received. Mr. Rollins expects the interviews to be conducted in late July or early August. The Parks Manager position oversees park maintenance, park improvement projects, public landings and park operations.

## PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Rollins provided a brief update on the following projects.

**Charlotte Hall Property Master Planning** – The R&P Board hosted a public input meeting at the Northern Senior Center on June 2, 2005 on the project with approximately 100 citizens in attendance. The two prevailing themes of the 25 speakers who addressed the R&P Board were the need for senior housing and need for additional recreation facilities in the Charlotte Hall area. Staff has scheduled time on the BOCC agenda on July 12, 2005 to obtain direction from the Board before beginning to work with planning consultants on the site concept plans and possible amenities for the site. The BOCC will need to consider that an existing forest conservation easement on the property would need to be relocated if the designated area is to be developed for uses other than passive recreation. Also, significant development of the balance of the property may require looking at an alternative traffic access off of Whalen Road.

**Three Notch Trail** – The contract for construction of Phase I of the trail was awarded on May 31, 2005 and the pre-construction meeting was held today at the site. Staff anticipates that construction on the trail will begin within the next few weeks. Phase I of the trail begins at Route 236 in New Market and proceeds approximately one mile north to the new Northern County Senior Center in Charlotte Hall. Phase two of the trail will begin at the new Northern County Senior Center in Charlotte Hall and proceed north to the St. Mary's County line for a distance of approximately two miles. The design and engineering for Phase II is currently underway.

Also, Wal-Mart has agreed to construct a ¼ mile section of the trail in California as part of its expansion project and discussions are continuing with other developers to construct sections of the trail between Chancellor's Run Road and St. Andrew's Church Road. To date, five developers have approached the County with similar proffers. These sections will be constructed to County standards as provided to the developers by County staff.

**Southern Maryland BMX Track Grand Opening** - Mr. Rollins informed the Board that Southern Maryland BMX, Inc. held a grand opening ceremony for the new BMX track in Chaptico Park on Sunday, June 26, 2005. The event was well attended by the BOCC, County staff, BMX representatives and others who worked on the track, riders and spectators.

**Myrtle Point Park Master Plan** – Staff plans to present the draft Myrtle Point Park draft master plan to the BOCC for consideration in the near future. The R&P Board will be notified when the date and time are scheduled.

**Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)** – Board members were provided with a copy of the revised draft LPPRP; changes were highlighted in red. Mr. Rollins asked Board members to review the changes and to provide him with any comments. He will be conducting an e-mail poll of the Board within the next week to gather additional input and concurrence on the plan. The plan will be presented to the Planning Commission for endorsement in August and will be presented to the BOCC later this summer.

Mr. Harper asked, with regard to the recommendations in the last LPPRP, with the addition of several parks and facilities, have there been any additions to staff – either in Administration or in the Parks Division? Mr. Rollins stated that seasonal part-time staff hours have been added to the Parks Division budget, but no full time staff has been added due to budget constraints. Mr. Harper recalled that the R&P Board had supported a recommendation a few years ago to hire a Deputy Director or Project Manager for the Department. Mr. Rollins stated that staff will try to address some of the project management needs with the hiring of the new Parks Manager; this would require some reorganization of the Parks Division. Chairman Roper stated that he has heard from citizens that full time staff is needed at some of the busier parks, especially on the weekends.

## FY06 APPROVED PARK & PUBLIC LANDING PROJECTS

**Great Mills Property Canoe/Kayak Launch** – Project will provide a walkway to the stream and step down platform into the water for launching canoes/kayaks for paddling from Great Mills to St. Mary's City.

**Seventh District Park Improvements** – The BOCC moved this project up from FY07 to FY06 based on comments received from the community. The \$600,000 project includes a new playground, restroom building, basketball court and possibly expanded parking.

**Wicomico Shores Tennis Court Replacement** – Project will allow replacement of two deteriorated tennis courts at Wicomico Shores. Bob Harper asked if the issue with a right of way and the tennis courts was resolved; Mr. Rollins will check that out.

**Lexington Manor Property Master Planning** – The Department of Economic & Community Development's (DECD) budget includes funding for master planning for the 50 acre south parcel of the Lexington Manor property. After the relocation of the remaining tenants and demolition of the old units (formally known as the "flat tops"), RP&CS will be working closely with DECD for master planning for the site. The process will take into consideration the 34 acre north parcel which is slated for commercial uses; Lancaster Park which is adjacent to the 50 acre parcel. The 50 acre parcel was purchased with Program Open Space funding and will need to be designated for recreational uses.

**Patuxent River Public Landing** - The County has included \$100,000 in FY06 for acquisition and future CIP funding for acquisition and development in FY07-FY10 to acquire 3-5 acres of property to develop a public landing including a boat ramp, pier and parking area for public access along the Patuxent River in the central to northern part of the County.

**Tall Timbers Landing Pier Renovation** – The County will receive State Waterway Improvement (WWI) funding in the amount of \$99,000 to replace the deteriorated pier at Tall Timbers Landing in Tall Timbers.

**Paul Ellis Landing Pier Renovation** – The County will also receive WWI funding in the amount of \$99,000 to replace the deteriorated pier at Paul Ellis Landing in Avenue.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Rollins informed the Board that the Friends of the Museum Division are requesting Alcohol Consumption permits for the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival, on July 9, 2005, and the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event on July 27, 2005.

**Sam Brown motioned, seconded by Jody Payne, to approve the Friends of the Museum Division Alcohol Consumption permit requests for the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival and the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event. Motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Harper asked if the RP&CS Department had received information on the Southern Maryland Trails promotion from the County's Tourism Division. Mr. Rollins stated that the Department had received the information and was planning on making a submission for the trails promotion.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board of St. Mary's County will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 1, 2005.